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FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0266  
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY  
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0872  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0812  
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 0408  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 1795  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 0514  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1937  
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 0181  
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY 0095  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0875

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SUBJECT: ITALY UNLIKELY TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT ON BURMA  
DURING GOVERNMENT TRANSITION

REF: STATE 45471

Classified By: A/DepPolCouns Gabriel Escobar, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche to MFA Southeast Asia Desk Officer Samuela Isoppi April 30 and urged Italy to join the U.S. in making public statements decrying the serious flaws in Burma's planned constitutional referendum. Isoppi said that Italy shared our belief that the referendum was part of an unjust process that would not lead to a democratic transition. However, because of the current domestic political situation -- Italy is in the midst of a government transition -- there was no minister or deputy minister who could effectively make such a statement. She assured us that Italy would not make any statement suggesting that the referendum represented democratic progress.  
SPOGLI